

from North Dakota for yielding. It will not take me long to make this statement.

(The remarks of Mr. BURNS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2987 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the vote now occurs on the nomination.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Francis J. Harvey, of California, to be Secretary of the Army? On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. The following Members were necessarily absent from today's session of the Senate:

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM).

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 212 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Dorgan	Lugar
Allard	Edwards	McCain
Allen	Ensign	McConnell
Baucus	Enzi	Miller
Bayh	Feingold	Murkowski
Bennett	Feinstein	Murray
Bingaman	Fitzgerald	Nelson (FL)
Bond	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Graham (FL)	Nickles
Brownback	Graham (SC)	Pryor
Bunning	Grassley	Reid
Burns	Gregg	Roberts
Byrd	Hagel	Rockefeller
Campbell	Harkin	Sarbanes
Cantwell	Hatch	Schumer
Chafee	Hollings	Sessions
Chambliss	Hutchison	Shelby
Clinton	Inhofe	Smith
Cochran	Inouye	Snowe
Coleman	Jeffords	Specter
Collins	Johnson	Stevens
Conrad	Kerry	Sununu
Cornyn	Kohl	Talent
Craig	Kyl	Thomas
Crapo	Landrieu	Voinovich
Dayton	Leahy	Warner
DeWine	Lieberman	Wyden
Dole	Lincoln	
Domenici	Lott	

NAYS—12

Akaka	Dodd	Levin
Carper	Durbin	Mikulski
Corzine	Kennedy	Reed
Daschle	Lautenberg	Stabenow

NOT VOTING—3

Biden	Breaux	Santorum
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. WARNER. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

Mr. WARNER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached correspondence from the Executive Office of the President be printed in today's RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE,

Washington, DC, November 15, 2004.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: In accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002 (the Trade Act), and pursuant to authority delegated to me by the President, I am pleased to notify the Congress that the President intends to initiate negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). We expect these negotiations to get underway in the beginning of 2005, and we will be consulting closely with the Congress over the next 90 days, as required by the Trade Act.

An FTA with the UAE will promote the President's initiative to advance economic reforms and openness in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, moving us closer to the creation of a Middle East Free Trade Area. A U.S.-UAE agreement will build on the FTAs that we already have with Israel, Jordan, and Morocco, as well as the FTA that we recently have signed with Bahrain, and will encourage the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to adopt standards that promote trade and investment. In 2003, the UAE had \$4.6 billion in two-way trade with the United States, and the United States had a \$2.4 billion trade surplus with the UAE. The UAE is an important strategic partner on a broad array of foreign and national security issues.

This FTA will directly benefit the United States. By reducing and eliminating barriers to trade, a comprehensive FTA with the UAE will generate export opportunities for U.S. companies, farmers, and ranchers, help create jobs in the United States, and help American consumers save money while offering them more choices. The UAE already pro-

vides an attractive market for U.S. products, and is a regional transportation and business hub in the Gulf and the Middle East. The UAE's Jebel Ali port is the third busiest port in the world, with excellent growth opportunities. In 2003, U.S. businesses exported \$3.5 billion worth of products in such areas as machinery, aircraft, vehicles, electrical machinery, and optical and medical instruments. Agriculture exports from the United States totaled \$259 million during the same period. The United States' trade relationship with the UAE is the third largest in the Middle East, behind only Israel and Saudi Arabia.

An FTA will provide new export opportunities for U.S. services firms in sectors such as telecommunications, finance, distribution, energy, construction, engineering, health care, legal services, accounting, tourism and travel, and environmental services. An FTA will also support the UAE's commitment to transparency, openness, and the rule of law, thereby enhancing respect for intellectual property, labor rights, and environmental protection. An FTA will also allow the United States to work more closely with UAE customs and port authorities that manage Jebel Ali and other transshipment points, an important opportunity for cooperation similar to that provided by our FTA with Singapore and the agreement we are negotiating with Panama.

Last year, the UAE entered into a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States. Since signing the TIFA, the UAE has demonstrated a serious commitment to free trade. It has become a party to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty, and has pledged to join the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

Our initial consultations with the Congress, including with the Congressional Oversight Group on September 8, 2004, indicate broad bipartisan interest in an FTA with the UAE. Following these consultations, I visited the UAE to discuss with top officials the topics covered in our comprehensive FTAs, to identify particular areas for work, and to assess the UAE's commitment to moving forward with an FTA. I came back with a strong sense of the UAE's interest in connecting the FTA to their plans for development, growth and openness. The UAE interest in an FTA also complements The 9/11 Commission Report recommendation urging the United States to expand trade with the Middle East as a way to "encourage development, more open societies, and opportunities for people to improve the lives of their families."

Through our FTAs in the Middle East, the United States is supporting moderate Islamic countries led by modernizers who are promoting openness and economic growth. Supporting countries such as the UAE as they expand their trading and investment relationships with the United States is a concrete and mutually beneficial way for the American people to enhance opportunity and hope in this critical region.

The Administration will continue to work closely with the Congress, including through the consultation, notification, and reporting procedures in the Trade Act. Moreover, to ensure that interested stakeholders are informed and have ample opportunity to provide their views, the Administration will conduct the negotiations in a transparent and accessible manner.

The specific objectives for negotiations with the UAE are as follows:

TRADE IN GOODS

Seek to eliminate tariffs and other duties and charges on trade between the UAE and